

April 9, 2009

**Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste  
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)**

Humboldt County Department of Public Works – Alderpoint Road Post Mile 42.1,  
Culvert Replacement and Slipout Repair  
WDID No. 1B09015WNHU

Humboldt County

On February 4, 2009, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Humboldt County Department of Public Works (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities related to repairing a slipout and culvert on Alderpoint Road. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with an unnamed tributary to Cold Creek in the Larabee Creek Hydrologic Subarea No. 111.13.

A slipout occurred on Alderpoint Road at Post Mile 42.1 during the winter storms of 2005-2006. The slipout extends approximately 30 feet down the slope and is approximately 240 feet at its widest point below the roadway. The slipout surrounds an existing 18-inch diameter plastic culvert that conveys an intermittent stream under the roadway. The slipout caused damage to the roadway and shoulder, and also caused the culvert to separate. The purpose of the project is to repair the culvert, slipout and roadway.

The proposed project involves installation of a stabilization trench and subsurface drain pipe. A 240-foot long, 10-foot deep, and 8-foot wide trench will be excavated along the slipout area of the roadway. The damaged culvert will also be excavated and removed. The bottom of the trench will be lined with 240 linear feet of 8-inch diameter perforated pipe and crushed rock backfill to create a subsurface drain. A solid outlet pipe will be connected to the drain pipe to convey collected water to the hillside below. As the trench is backfilled a new 18-inch diameter and 60-foot long culvert will be placed at the same elevation and alignment as the existing damaged culvert. A 10-foot long and 5-foot wide area of rock slope protection (RSP) will be added at the culvert outlet. In the unlikely event that water is present in the stream during construction activities, a sandbag coffer dam will be placed 10 feet upstream of the culvert inlet and flows will be piped around the site.

Proposed culvert excavation and replacement activities will temporarily impact 140 square feet and 60 linear feet of the stream channel where the damaged 18-inch diameter culvert is located. The proposed RSP at the culvert outlet will permanently impact 50 square feet and 10 linear feet of the stream channel. The culvert will be placed back in its original location and will not result in any additional permanent impacts to the stream channel.

Compensatory mitigation is not required for the proposed project. Noncompensatory mitigation includes the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for sediment and turbidity control and for operation of heavy equipment in a stream channel. The proposed project is scheduled for construction during the summer of 2009.

The applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to perform the project under nationwide permit, pursuant to Clean Water Act Section 404. The Applicant has also applied to the California Department of Fish and Game for a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement. The County of Humboldt determined that this project is categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review pursuant to Section 15301, Class 1 – existing facilities. Regional Water Board staff have determined that this project is categorically exempt from CEQA review (Class 1, Section 15301 – existing facilities) and anticipate filing a Notice of Exemption for this project.

Regional Water Board staff are proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act authority. In addition, staff will consider all comments submitted in writing and received at this office by mail during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. If you have any questions, please contact staff member Dean Prat at (707) 576-2801 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.